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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 SP-02 AID-05

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

PM-03 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /096 W
---------- 094527
R 191753Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1251

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, CU
SUBJECT: SHIPPING TO CUBA

SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF LONDON AND OVERSEAS FREIGHTERS LTD (LOF) AND MAVROLEON INTERESTS ASKING WHETHER USG CAN RELIEVE SHIP-OWNERS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT TO CALL IN CUBA. GUIDANCE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARLES W. LYONS, REPRESENTING LOF AND BASIL MAVROLEON, CALLED AT EMBASSY MAY 16 WITH ABOVE INQUIRY. LYONS, WHO IS A RETIRED FSO, WAS SHIPPING ATTACHE AT THIS EMBASSY IN MID-60'S AND WAS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAVROLEON'S CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCE OF DECEMBER 16, 1963 AGREEING THAT HIS VESSELS WOULD NOT CALL AT CUBAN PORTS SO LONG AS IT REMAINS POLICY OF USG TO DISCOURAGE TRADE WITH CUBA.

2. HE SAID MAVROLEON AND OTHER UK SHIPOWNERS WONDER IF USG MIGHT CONSIDER RELAXING RULES IN VIEW OF RECENT INDICATIONS OF IMPENDING RELAXED ATTITUDES OF US AND OAS ON CUBA. IN PARTICULAR LOF HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY
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SOVFRACHT, CHARTERERS OF FOUR OF THEIR VESSELS, TO RE-

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QUEST LIFTING OF CUBA-EXCLUSION CLAUSES. ALL FOUR VESSELS ARE 24,700 DWT BULK CARRIERS, CHARTERED TO END OF 1976. LYONS SAID HE HAS IMPRESSION THERE HAVE BEEN CASES WHERE ASSURANCES ARE BEING IGNORED AND THERE IS OF COURSE TEMPTATION TO ACT ACCORDINGLY, ESPECIALLY SINCE SANCTIONS APPLICABLE TO MAVROLEON SHIPS WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT. MAVROLEON FEELS HONOR BOUND TO ABIDE BY HIS AGREEMENT. HENCE HE WONDERS IF SOMETHING COULD NOT BE DONE EITHER WITH RESPECT TO THIS PARTICULAR CASE OR GENERALLY.

3. LYONS SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH ARA/CCA AND EB/MA IN WASHINGTON A MONTH OR SO AGO. HE UNDERSTOOD THEN THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN US POSITION BUT HOPED THERE MIGHT BE MOVEMENT NOW OR SOON.

4. WE SAID WE WOULD PUT QUESTION TO WASHINGTON, THOUGH, REALISTICALLY, WE THOUGHT THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR EX-CEPTION FOR PARTICULAR CASE AND MOST WE MIGHT ACCOMPLISH IS TO HELP ENSURE THAT QUESTION OF SHIPPING ASSURANCES IS CONSIDERED.

5. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF IT IS TRUE THAT ASSURANCES ARE BEING IGNORED AND IN EFFECT ONLY THE CONSCIENTIOUS ARE BEING PENALIZED BY LONG CONTINUATION OF SHIPPING SANCTION ARRANGEMENTS. GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE IS REQUESTED.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EWWT, EEWT, ETRD, CU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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